

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 281

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to support screening for colorectal cancer.

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the second most common cause of cancer deaths for men and women in the United States; and

WHEREAS, nearly 150,00 Americans were diagnosed with colorectal cancer in 2008, including 3,290 Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, every 3.5 minutes, someone is diagnosed with colorectal cancer, and every 10 minutes, someone dies from colorectal cancer; and

WHEREAS, of the nearly 50,000 Americans who died of colorectal cancer in 2008, 1,130 of them were Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of colon cancer deaths can be prevented through proper screening and early detection; and

WHEREAS, the survival rate of individuals who have colorectal cancer is 90 percent when detected in the early stages versus only a 10 percent survival rate when colorectal cancer is diagnosed after it has spread to distant organs; and

WHEREAS, only 39 percent of colorectal cancer patients had their cancers detected at an early stage; and

WHEREAS, screening for colorectal cancers should begin at age 50; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have a higher incidence of colorectal cancer and should begin screening for colorectal cancer at age 45; and

WHEREAS, greater awareness of colorectal cancer and the profound benefits of colorectal cancer screening could save thousands of lives annually; indeed, with regular

colorectal cancer screening, the death rate from this disease could plummet by up to 80 percent; and

WHEREAS, regular colorectal cancer screening has been ranked as one of the most cost effective screening interventions available, as colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable in most cases; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this body hereby recognizes the importance of early detection of colorectal cancer and supports regular screening for the disease by health practitioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.